

Livelihoods, Land use change and plantations

The Next 40 Years and Beyond

An industry view

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- Predicting the future is always fraught with danger but when looking at forests and forestry in PNG there are 3 unavoidable ‘certainties’ that will influence, if not determine, outcomes and the nature of our evolving relationship with forests –
 - Population increase
 - Rising living standards, and
 - Structural change in China

- Bearing in mind the foregoing ‘certainties’, we need to consider – where do we want to be in 40 years time and how do we get there?
- I would suggest that the business of forestry will increasingly be a plantation based, value adding (processing) focused industry. (The State’s 6 point plan outlined yesterday in Vision 2050, maybe a mere reflection of long term market dynamics.)
- The emergence of such an industry will depend on the enabling environment and I would suggest that the following issues need to be considered and addressed to facilitate future sustainable,

industrial development –

- Forest classification, ITTO guidelines
- Real, on ground post harvest management – a commitment to SFM and out with ‘benign neglect’. On private forest land this requires active participation of landowners.
- A sustainable and economically robust revenue system as envisaged in the Act
- Access to land under a system that ensures long term security of tenure
- Enabling investment policies, not a proscribing and prescriptive regime, and one that encourages

Landowners involvement in the business of forestry.

If such a 'business environment' were to emerge, there are however two significant, high risk factors that could restrict future sectoral growth –

- Climate change and policy responses to that, including REDD+
- International efforts to impose development outcomes that suit themselves and which may not be in PNG's national interest.